

AMHERST PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2008

Members: Sylvia Cuomo, Carl Erikson, Harriet Goodwin, Nora Maroulis, Mary S. McCarthy and Terry Rooney (Chair)

The Amherst Public Art Commission continues its mission to bring arts to the public while supporting the role of local artists in our community. This past year, we continued with this work by commissioning Briana Taylor, a local artist, to finish the second wall at the entrance of the Boltwood Garage. The focus of this mural highlights the “Architectural Gems” of our town. Viewers can see various Amherst sites, such as elements of the Jones Library, local farms, Amherst Town Hall, the Yiddish Book Center, Amherst College and West Cemetery. Our committee received a grant for \$1,000 to finish the interior columns of the Boltwood Garage in December 2007 which we hope to tie in with the Town’s 250th celebration with the completion with the interior and exterior work at the Boltwood Garage. We will be putting out a call for submission in spring ‘08 with the murals being completed during the summer 2009.

The Amherst Public Art Commission continues its successful Visiting Artist Program, in Amherst Town Hall, now in its 8th year. This year our committee selected four wonderful artists: Marcia Rossi Wise (oil paintings), Anita Licis Ricak (photographs), Keith Hollingworth (mixed media paintings), and Steve Plummer (watercolors). We will be putting out a call for artists this fall for next year’s Visiting Artists Program. Each artist and APAC hosts a reception during the Amherst ArtsWalk, which takes place the first Thursday of each month.

We have also started working this year on another project for Amherst 250th called “Shedding Light” a proposal brought forth by architect and local Amherst artist, Erika Zekos which will be a temporary installation of lighting a tobacco barn using “green energy.” Our committee is acting as liaison with the artist, a local farmer, UMass, Theatrix and various town agencies under the guidance of Larry Shaffer, to bring this project to fruition in December 2009. This project will highlight the historical, artistic, intellectual, ecological uniqueness of Amherst for this important celebration of our special community.

In our continuing quest to bring art to the public, one of our members, Harriet Goodwin has joined the Kendrick Park Committee in hopes of bringing more public art to downtown.

Amherst Public Art Commission is very grateful for the funding it receives from the Amherst Cultural Council and the support of local businesses and the University of Massachusetts. We are applying for several grants from private and public foundations for the “Shedding Light” project.

APAC currently has \$1,800 in its account with the Amherst Cultural Council and \$207 in the account with the Town Treasurer.

Terry Rooney, Chair